

ENT 1

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AB The process comprises allowing to react 4-methoxyphenylacetoneitrile with organic base at 0-5° for 0.5-2 h, adding with **cyclohexanone** at 0-5° for 2-4 h to obtain 1-(α -cyano-4-methoxybenzyl)cyclohexanol (I), and mixing with NaBH₄ in solvent for 3-5 h, adding 40-50% BF₃.etherate solution in 3-5 h, and refluxing for 1-3 h. The organic base is selected from one or more of NaOMe, NaOEt, NaNH₂, and NaH. The mole ratio of 4-methoxyphenylacetoneitrile-**cyclohexanone** - organic base is 1:1-1.3:1-1.3, and that of I-NaBH₄-BF₃.etherate is 1:0.9-1:1-1.12. The title compound is useful as intermediate for synthesis of the antidepressant venlafaxine.